(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Geophysical surveys have been carried out in different areas in North Bihar. Wells were also drilled at Raxaul, Purnea and Gandak but they proved dry.

Closure of coal m'.nes

505. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of coal mines were closed after nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result thereof a large number of labourers have been rendered unemployed;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a persistent demand to open these coal mines; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) Since nationalisation a few mines have been closed. The reasons for the closure were exhaustion of coal reserves, adverse economics etc. However, no worker was rendered unemployed on this account.

Coal India Ltd. has initiated steps' for opening some of these closed mines having workable reserves through re-organisation schemes and formulation of new projects.

Converting petrol fuelled car inte Compressed natural gas run car

506. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O.N.G.C, has developed the technology for converting a conventional petrol fuelled car into compressed natural gas (C.N.C.) run car;

(b) whether the technology will be put to commercial use for consumer; and

(c) if so, by when it will be done and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STAT3 OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (c) O.N.G.C, have experimented with the use of compressed Natural Gas in a Jeep by using an imported dual fuel conversion kit. The experiment has not reached the stage of commercial use.

Disposal of complaints by MRTP Commission

507. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average time taken by MRTP Commission to dispose of a complaint lodged by private dealers/ consumers;

(b)lthe number of complaints lodged with the Commission during the year 1985 and disposed of by it concerning misuse of trade practices by private companies; and

(c) I in how many cases during the above period compromises were effected between the parties by MRTP Commission and in how many cases the parties concerned went in appeal to higher courts against the decision of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The time taken by MRTP Commission to dispose of a complaint depends upon the nature of the complaint and the issues involved therein.

(b) The MRTP Commission received 168 complaints during 1985 and disposed of 87 out of them.

(c) It is not the function of the MRTP Commission to effect compromises between the contending parties. In three cases appeals were filed before the Supreme Court against the orders passed by the Commission.

Consultancy services to public sector undertakings

508. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleas-ed to state:

(a) whether his attention has beer, drawn to the news item published :n the *Txmes of India* dated 23rd February, 1986 for providing manage ment consultancy services to public sector undertakings by newly in corporated consultancy company of non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, what are the areas in which consultancy services will be provided to the public sector undertakings;

(c) whether any agreement .has been signed with the above NRI firm and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Public Sector Chiefs have been consulted for the need of such consultancy services; and

(e) if so, what was their reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) There is a proposal to set up a j oint-ven ture With equity participation from some of the Public Sector Undertakings alongwith a new company to be formed by highly qualified non-resident Indians with the back-up support of a renowned internationally known consultancy organisation. The Administrative Ministries of certain Public Sector Undertakings in sectors like Power, Coal, Heavy Engineering, Rail • ways Petroleum have been requested to advise a few undertakings accordingly. The scope of specialised services to be obtained from this Joint Venture shall be defined and quantified in consultation with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings. The payment of fees etc. by the concerned undertakings will depend upon the scope of servkes to be rendered by the proposed company. Government have not signed any agreement with a non-resident Indian company in this behalf.

Waiting list for telephones in Maharashtra

509. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra State;

(b) by when the list can be cleared;

(c) by when the waiting list of Nanded and Aurangabad cities of Marathwada region can be cleared; and

(d) what is the latest position in MAX one buildings construction in Nanded city in M.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra State as on 28-2-1986 is 2,67,290.

(b) The present waiting list is likeiy, to be cleared progressively daring the next 7 years, depending upon availability of resources.